

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 30 were rejected as being anticipated by Kao.

Claims 4-5, 9-13, 15-29 and 31-32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kao in view of Sarokin.

Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kao.

Claim 14 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kao in view of Sarokin and Jandron.

Claims 33-34 were rejected as being anticipated by Walton.

Kao discloses a motor vehicle with an accessory, elongated brake light resting on a front bumper under the radiator grill openings. It is far from clear that this light is visible from the sides of the vehicle.

Sarokin has a front mounted vehicle braking indicator and was cited for a number of features including "use of a triangle light arrangement". Actually, as the Examiner notes, the triangular light arrangement would come from combining the teachings with Kao, so that this reference does not in fact teach the use of a triangular brake light arrangement.

Jandron shows a side/front arrangement of brake lights and was cited for the brake lights being outside of the headlights so that they can be seen from the sides of the vehicle.

Walton shows a vehicle with front and side brake/running/turn signal lights employing optical fibers.

In view of the excellent art cited by the Examiner, claims 1-9 have been canceled and claim 10 has been extensively amended to recite the triangular configuration of the brake lights in the front of the vehicle. The triangular arrangement is such that the three lights are the corners of a triangle with two of the lights spaced apart above the bumper and the third light is on the bumper, so that the triangle is "pointing down". This is the opposite of the typical arrangement in the back of a vehicle as seen in Fig. 1 and as pointed out in par. 0084 of the specification where it is noted that "The triangle is inverted and is vertically opposite from the triangle presented by the conventional rear brake lights and high, center-mounted brake light". This is believed to be a significant feature of the present invention not found or suggested in the art of record.

Claims 11, 22, and 24-26 has been canceled.

Claims 12-21, 23, 27 and 28 now all depend from claim 10 and have been amended where appropriate to provide consistency throughout.

Claim 21, which is drawn to the embodiment shown in Fig. 10, has been amended to provide details of the hooks and the springs on the bolts. This specific arrangement, for retrofitting a vehicle, does not appear to be shown or suggested in the art of record.

Independent claim 29, which includes the feature that two of the brake lights function also function as turn signals, has been amended to include the triangular arrangement as recited in claim 10.

Independent claim 30 has been amended to recite that the light source in the bumper extends along the front bumper sufficiently to be visible from the front and both sides of the vehicle. It does not appear that any of the art of record includes this important feature of the present invention.

Claims 31-34 have been canceled.

It is urged that it is improper to combine the features of Sarokin and Kao for the purpose of suggesting the triangular arrangement of the present invention because there is no rationale for combining these references for such a purpose. Each of the references already has front brake light(s). What would be the purpose for combining the teachings except as suggested in the teachings of the present application.

In addition, even if the teachings of the references were combined, the triangular arrangement obtained would have the opposite configuration of the present claimed arrangement, that is, the triangle would be "pointing up" as in the rear of the vehicle, whereas in the present invention, the opposite orientation is desired and obtained.

In view of the foregoing, it is urged that the claims remaining are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Leonard Belkin